GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
CONFERENCE OF FOOD MINISTERS
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Seminar of Food Ministers from various States was held at Delhi in October 2004;

(b) if so, the major issues raised and decisions taken therein;

(c) whether the members failed to reach a consensus on a number of issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. With a view to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS), the functioning of the PDS was reviewed in the Conference of the State Food Secretaries held on 17th September, 2004 and thereafter in the Conference of State Food Ministers held on 28th October, 2004. As per the recommendations of these Conferences all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been instructed to ensure that all families at the risk of hunger including migrant labour/displaced persons/homeless population are issued ration entitlement authority slips; steps taken to improve the economic viability of ration shops and incentives provided to increase procurement under decentralized procurement of foodgrains so as to make the PDS more cost effective as well as to cater to the local tastes. The Conference also recommended a number of steps to improve the economic viability of the Fair Price Shops in the country.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.